

Remarks/Arguments

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Claim Rejection¶

Examiner has rejected pending claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Simon et al, US 4,918,523, in view of Ferre et al, US 4,707,738.

Claim 24 has been amended to clarify what the applicants regard as his invention. As amended, claim 24 is believed to be patentable over the cited references.

As Examiner has already noted in a previous office action, Simon fails to teach the limitation of "...using weighting coefficients, high spatial frequencies being less weighted than low spatial frequencies..." as recited in claim 24. In addition, Simon does not teach or suggest the additional limitation of "...wherein same coding type (inter or intra) is specified at a block level..." On the contrary, Simon teaches that *all* elements of a still frame/picture and the first frame/picture of a video sequence are to be intra coded, and all elements of second and subsequent frames are to be inter coded. (See, e.g., col. 11, lines 43 to 45; col. 11, lines 65 to 67). There is no selection of intra or inter coding on a block by block basis in Simon.

Likewise, Ferre does not teach or suggest at least the limitation of "... the same coding type is applied to the corresponding luminance and chrominance blocks..." as now recited in claim 24.

Lastly, none of the references (either alone or in combination) teaches or suggests the further limitation of "...inserting a picture separator word between encoded data corresponding to two consecutive pictures, each picture separator word comprises a pattern which cannot be imitated by licit concatenations of encoded data..." (Support for this aspect of the claimed invention can be found at least in Fig. 9 and lines 21 - 23 on page 31 of the present specification).

Therefore, amended claim 24 is believed to be patentable over the cited prior references.

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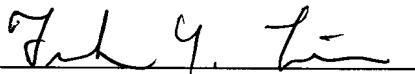
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Conclusion

Having fully addressed Examiner's rejections, it is believed that in view of the preceding amendment and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of an opinion that such action cannot be taken, Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6821, so that a mutually convenient date and time for an interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,  
ERIC AUVRAY ET AL.

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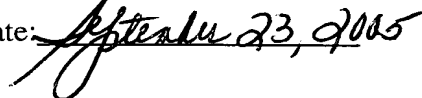
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Patricia M. Fedorowycz